now urged for the shortening of the lives of mankind after the flood of Noah ? For Vise reasons, all of which we may never be able to discover, but one of which no doubt was the lengthening of human experience, and the handing down of the results of it to" future generations, God saw fit to allot to mankind a longer earthly existence in the early ages of the world. And until such time as mankind became numerous, had learned the art ot combination, and were disposed to spurn at all moral restraint, there might be some measure of order and peace produced by God, even in a wicked world where men lived till nearly the age of 1000 years. But when the race had learned the arts, when they knew how to unite in their daring and ambitious schemes, when the sons of God. the children of the Church, married into the wicked world, and the restraint which the Church laid upon the world was removed, then it was befitting that the existing dispensation should be terminated by a flood, which swept away the inhabitants. The whole earth was filled with violence; and but for a change in the method of government, this violence might have become beyond measure intolerable. In the new dispensation, the bow in the cloud was a sign that the earth should not henceforth be visited by such a catastrophe; but contemporaneously with it, and in order to render such an interposition no longer needful, there was to be a shortening of man's life, and apparently, too, a greater uncertainty as to the time of the approach of death. Man's gigantic plans of wickedness were not henceforth to be arrested by so terrible an event as the Flood; but means, too, were taken to prevent their schemes from attaining so tremendous a magnitude. May we not discover, too, in the confusion of tongues at Babel, and the consequent dispersion, a special arrangement of heaven for keeping the inhabitants of this world from combining to produce such

an amount of disorder and violence as must have prevented this world from fulfilling the ends contemplated by its Governor ?

Fifthly, There is THE DEPENDENCE OF EVERY MAN UPON OTHERS OF HIS SPECIES. Even Robinson Crusoe was dependent on other men for his gun, which may have employed many a hand in constructing its several parts. The greater portion oi mankind must lean more or less on a vast number of other men. We should consider, too, how these other men on whom we depend are as dependent as ourselves on others of the race. It